

CIA CHANGES IN PAPER ENTITLED "DIEGO GARCIA AND SOVIET NAVY
INDIAN OCEAN PRESENCE"

Strike the sentence at the bottom of the first page which begins "in response to a direct question..." and substitute the following:

In response to a question, Mr. Colby said: "...it would really depend on the size of the investment and the forces that we arrange to be there. If we put in a permanent establishment of some size, why they would correspondingly increase to some substantial degree. If we had only sort of tentative connections there and some improvements, they might just continue their gradual increase." He then concurred with Senator Symington's comment: "As I understand it, you expect the Soviet presence in the Indian Ocean to continue to grow regardless of what we do but that it will grow faster if we start developing Diego Garcia; is that a fair interpretation?"

Make a new paragraph 4 with the sentence that starts "the real fact is" and change paragraph 4 to paragraph 5.

Mr. Colby has no objection to the statements in the paper concerning his testimony but has no comment on the policy aspects of the paper.

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DIEGO GARCIA AND
SOVIET NAVY INDIAN OCEAN PRESENCE

1. At the Presidential News Conference on 28 August 1974, President Ford, in response to a question about the development of Diego Garcia, stated that he favored a limited expansion of the base. He added that the Soviets already had three major naval operating bases in the Indian Ocean.

2. Press reports of President Ford's remarks on Diego Garcia have been limited. All major wire services noted his response. The 1 Sep Washington Post printed a Reuters story which quoted the Soviets news agency Tass as accusing the President of "regrettable inaccuracies" in saying Moscow has three operating naval bases in the Indian Ocean. Christopher Wren, in the 1 Sep New York Times, wrote that Mr. Ford not only reaffirmed his statement, but Defense Department officials provided a map showing Soviet base locations. The 1 Sep Washington Star-News picked up the same story. The 3 Sep Chicago Tribune carried an editorial supporting the President while the 3 Sep Washington Post carried a commentary by Warren Unna, the American correspondent for the Statesman of India, saying CIA Director William Colby broke ranks and qualified the arguments of Admiral Zumwalt in regard to Diego Garcia. Quoting Colby in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Unna said Colby believes the Soviet presence in the Indian Ocean will continue to grow regardless of U.S. actions, but that it will grow faster if we develop Diego Garcia.

3. In seeking the goal of global naval expansion the Soviet Union has obtained access to several facilities in the Indian Ocean which are capable of providing support to its naval operations there. The foremost among these are Berbera in the Republic of Somalia; Aden in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen; and Umm Qasr in Iraq. These ports offer support facilities; i.e., fuel, provisioning some repair capability in varying degrees, and a nearby airstrip for convenient use. The one currently providing the greatest support for Soviet operations, Berbera, also has a dedicated military communications facility. Mr. Colby's testimony to Senator Symington's Sub-Committee on 11 July stressed the gradual but steady Soviet buildup in the Indian Ocean since 1968. Based upon sound intelligence he predicted that this buildup would continue. Mr. Colby's testimony was factual and agrees with that of other intelligence sources all of which concur in his prediction. He added, however, that, "Should the U.S. make a substantial increase in its naval presence in the Indian Ocean, a Soviet buildup faster and larger than I have just described would be likely." In response to a direct question, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The real fact is that the relatively modest improvements on Diego Garcia do not constitute a substantial build-up nor an increase in naval presence. The U.S. only plans to increase the runway by 4,000 feet, build a very modest pier, increase the storage capacity for fuel and dredge out a small portion of the lagoon. ~~The Soviets know these plans and are highly unlikely to use such a flimsy excuse for accelerating their plans for expansion.~~

4. The U.S. has very important interests in the Indian Ocean. We must not hesitate to send a naval task force into that Ocean from time to time in support of those interests. We found it necessary to do so last October but were unnecessarily hampered in conducting operations by not having the improvements on Diego Garcia to assist in providing the logistical support required. Prudence would suggest that means be provided to support our national interests by developing a credible capability to deploy military power into the area. Diego Garcia enhances the accomplishment of that objective. Without it we are limiting our capability to operate naval forces effectively in the Indian Ocean, clearly putting the U.S. at a disadvantage and clearly not in the national interest.